

S W I T C H B A C K

GIPPSLAND CENTRE FOR ART AND DESIGN

# LAND to LIGHT

Photo Diaries

**Jenny Davis, Charles Farrugia,  
John Martin, Mark Story**

**Curated by Charles Farrugia and  
Rodney Forbes**

You are invited to the opening of this  
exhibition at 5pm on Tuesday, 17 April 2012.

Exhibition dates: 18 Apr to 24 May

Hours: Mon to Fri, 9am - 5pm

or by appointment

Building 6S, Monash University,  
Gippsland Campus, Churchill, 3842

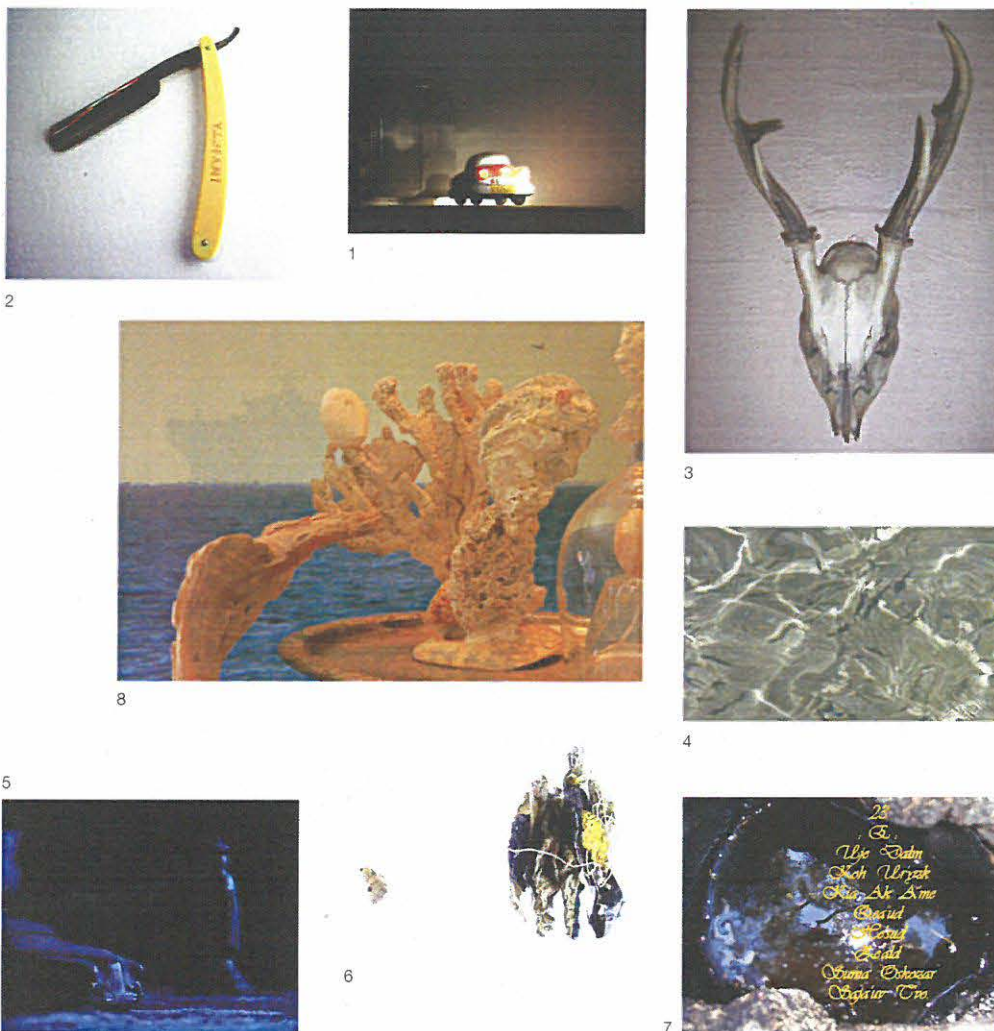
Phone: (03) 5122 6261

Image -

Mark Story,  
*Blue Light Riley*, 2012  
Digital print on archival paper  
21 x 29.6 cm



**MONASH** University  
Art & Design



# LAND to LIGHT

An exhibition of four Victorian Artists' diary photographs

**Land:** The silent source of us.

No matter where we live, the land is the source behind the concepts of so much visual art. We may yearn to escape the ties to the land at times through the sea, sky and even outer space but our connections whether spiritual or physical to solid earth permeate much of our visual art concepts.

**Light:** The silent source of all photography.

Light brings not just the sun's energy and feeds our senses and spirit; it is the vehicle for all visual art and particularly photography.

The four artists participating are located in diverse parts of Victoria, from northern suburban Melbourne (Mark Story), coastal Mornington Peninsula (Charles Farrugia), the hills around the Yarra Valley (Jenny Davis) to the central Victorian country around Maryborough (John Martin). They are all collectors of images, either from their home land or combined with overseas sources.

A few years back, circa 2006, I was looking at some photos that artist friends were showing me of their overseas trips. I reflected that artists' snapshots are often quite different to general public photographs. I am here not talking about "art shots" trying to be a work of art, but rather to diary image photos as being quite a different, almost alien process to ordinary snapshots. They had a filmic narrative without necessarily expounding a specific story.

In the gathering of these three artists with me for this exhibition I have asked that each present a group of their diary photographs that eventually led to a final art piece. I am here more interested in the photographic collection and collation of ideas that are absorbed by the artists as they experience their visual encounter with nature or metropolis, industry, text or any other culture or cultural issue.

**Mark Story** has exhibited widely and traveled extensively. He has a diverse oeuvre, incorporating drawing, painting, sculpture, performance and photography. He lives in the northern suburbs of Melbourne. His consistent theme has been to do with "the automobile", in particular the Riley Pathfinder, a car that he has fully restored to full driving condition years ago and still uses regularly, both functionally and artistically in his imagery.

**Jenny Davis** works in painting, drawing, sculpture, photography, video and textiles. She has primarily been influenced by abstract expressionism in her painting, but her work also ranges from surrealism (sculpture) to post modern installation. She has exhibited throughout Australia and internationally. She lives and works in the Yarra Valley and travels to Europe regularly, particularly France and Spain.

**John Martin** lives in Central Victoria. His concerns have been influenced by the Fluxus movement of the sixties and his recent endeavours are the use of codes, both numerical and text-based whilst integrating imagery from film, photography and complex spiritual philosophies. His artwork manifests in both photography and installation and more recently, drawing. He maintains a daily diary drawing regime.

**Charles Farrugia** lives and works on the Mornington Peninsula Victoria. My early paintings were influenced by film and surrealism. Later, I turned to creating formal sculpture and geometric, temporal, site-specific installations in lakes and waterways dealing with issues of entropy. In parallel with these larger projects, I have worked with found object, small installation sculptures which link to nostalgia, memory, symbolism and entropy. In the last few years photography has increased its presence in my practice.

Charles Farrugia 2012

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1. MARK STORY  
Diary images

3. JOHN MARTIN  
Diary images

5. MARK STORY  
Blue Light Riley

7. JOHN MARTIN  
RILTS 2

As a small scale image, it's a bit of a challenge to see the detail of the Riley Pathfinder in the dark.

2. JENNY DAVIS  
Diary images

4. CHARLES FARRUGIA  
Diary images

6. JENNY DAVIS  
Rites in Time

8. CHARLES FARRUGIA  
Unbound Aquatics a D-messia.

The diary's landscape

## Gippsland Centre for Art and Design

Since its early days as an alternative art school, the centre has had a strong culture of community, cross disciplinary practice and rigorous discourse. Students at GCAD learn to take risks, collaborate and be accountable for their ideas. The centre offers programs at Bachelors, Honours, Masters and PhD level. Innovative approaches include cross-cultural research, off-campus modes in postgraduate study, mentor group and team-teaching and a range of alternative entry paths.

Curated by Charles Farrugia and Rodney Forbes  
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SWITCHBACK GALLERY  
GIPPSLAND CENTRE FOR ART & DESIGN  
18 April – 24 May 2012

**MONASH University**  
Art Design & Architecture

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Curated by Charles Farrugia and Rodney Forbes



Jenny Davis Digital Print



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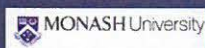


Mark Story Digital print

You are invited to the opening of this exhibition at 5pm on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April at **Switchback Gallery**

Gippsland Centre for Art and Design, Building 6S, Monash University Gippsland Campus, Churchill 3842. (03) 9902 6261

[gippsland@artdes.monash.edu.au](mailto:gippsland@artdes.monash.edu.au) Mon-Fri 9.00 to 5.00 or by app. Exhibition dates. 17<sup>th</sup> April to 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2012





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## LAND to LIGHT Photo Diaries

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**Curated by Charles Farrugia and Rodney Forbes**

**18 April - 24 May 2012**

**You are invited to the public opening of  
this exhibition on Tuesday 17 April at 5pm**

*Land to Light* reveals the photographic research processes which underpin many artists' finished works. From collecting detail for a painter to catching an inspiration or idea for any artist, photography is an important part of the creative process. Some of these photographs are part of the documentation process of these artist's mainstream works. Other photographs they are presenting are to do with their locale and journeys that have nurtured their art expression and stand as finished works.



**Image: Mark Story, *Blue Light Riley*, 2012,  
Digital print on archival paper 21 x 29.6 cm**

### **SWITCHBACK GALLERY** **Gippsland Centre for Art and Design**

Director Rodney Forbes

Hours: Mon to Fri, 9am - 5pm or by appointment Building 6S, Monash University, Gippsland Campus, Churchill

(03) 5122 6261 9902 6261

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## Switchback gallery calendar of events

### 2013

#### Fiona West: Souvenirs of Self

Fiona West's work explores the question, "How do I, as a recent white South African immigrant, explore the contemporary Australian landscape?"

6 - 21 March 2013

#### Exchanging Story: connecting by the printed surface

An exhibition and collaborative print exchange, bringing together American and Australian printmakers.

12 - 28 February 2013

### 2012

#### FIN:2012

Completing Bachelors and Honours students from The Gippsland Centre for Art & Design

13 November 2012 - 14 February 2013

#### RONA GREEN: Surface Value

October 17 - November 9 2012

#### Dylan Martorell: D'ameublement

September 5 - October 11 2012

#### ZONE of SENSATION: finding oneself beyond sight. An installation by Kim McDonald

8 - 30 August 2012

#### ZAHIDAH Paintings by UAE-based Syrian artist Zahidah Zeytoun Millie

11 July - 4 August 2012

#### Un-acclimatised Presented by Monash University Museum of Art | MUMA

Rosemary Laing - Geoff Lowe - James Morrison - Susan Norrie - Blaire Trethowan - Siri Hayes

29 May - 5 July 2012

#### LAND to LIGHT Photo Diaries

JENNY DAVIS - CHARLES FARRUGIA - JOHN MARTIN - MARK STORY

18 April - 24 May 2012

#### CHIPPO

(Christopher Gray): A brush with the wall

a survey exhibition of paintings and drawings

6 March - 12 April 2012

### 2011

#### COUNTERFEITS

the end/the beginning



More...

Switchback gallery  
opening hours:

Monday - Friday  
9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Closed on Public Holidays